# Chapter 6 Learning

## Question #1

Instincts differ from reflexes mostly in their complexities. Instincts are innate behaviors brought about by extensive life events, such as aging and seasonal changes. They are intricate patterns of behavior that include whole-body movement and involve high brain centers. The difference in reflexes is that they are motor or neural reactions to certain stimuli in one's environment. Therefore, reflexes are simpler than instincts. Also, instincts in movements involve the whole organism, while reflexes involve a specific body part and system.

## Question #2

The four reinforcement schedules are Fixed-ratio, Variable ratio schedule, Fixed interval schedule, and Variable interval schedule.

A fixed ratio schedule involves reinforcement after a specific number of responses have been given. This also includes using a constant number of responses.

A variable ratio schedule is a schedule of reinforcement where behavior is reinforced after a random number of responses.

A fixed interval schedule is a schedule that provides a reward at consistent times.

A variable interval schedule is where reinforcement is given at random time intervals.

Question #3

Bandura believed there were specific steps to be taken in the modeling process if a person was to be successful. These steps included attention, retention, reproduction, and motivation. First, the person must be focused and attentive to what the model is doing. The next step is retention. This is where the person must be able to remember what they just observed. In the subsequent step, reproduction, the first two are essential to succeed before coming to this step because this is where a person needs to perform the observed and memorized behavior. The last step is motivation. Motivation depends on what was observed and the reinforcements in the behavior. If the person were reinforced for their behavior, they would be more motivated to copy, which is termed vicarious reinforcement; however, if the model were punished, they would be less likely to reproduce. This is called vicarious punishment.

Question #4

The four means of modifying behavior in operant conditioning are Positive Reinforcement, Positive Punishment, Negative Reinforcement, and Negative Punishment.

Positive reinforcement is when my dog Bob obeys a command; I give him a treat afterward.

Positive punishment is a teacher adding an extra assignment to the children in the class who talked during the teacher's lesson.

Negative punishment is when a teenager’s phone is taken away because of their failing grades.

Negative reinforcement is my son's gaming restrictions being removed because his grades and attitude improved.

Question #9

B.F. Skinner's operant conditioning would be an excellent approach to behavior modification. For instance, the child misbehaving would be punished for their bad behavior and rewarded for their good behavior. In doing this, Skinner felt that reinforced behavior tends to be repeated, and the behavior that isn't reinforced tends to be eliminated. Most parents, as well as schools, use operant conditioning daily to modify behavior.

Question #10

Latent learning is the process by which a person or animal subconsciously learns without any rewards or reinforcements. What they know from what they observe is only used and demonstrated when there is a reason to use it. For example, my dog Bob and I go on daily walks around the neighborhood. We've been taking these walks since he was six months old. One night Bob got out and took off after a deer. Bob is still a puppy. I was nervous he wouldn't find his way back home. Shortly after he took off, Bob came running up the driveway panting and exhausted. His latent learning from his observation during our walks brought him home safely.

Question #16

Little Albert was conditioned to be afraid of certain things. This was conducted by loud noises made with a hammer against a metal bar behind the infant's head. This wasn't very comforting to the infant. Using an infant by scaring them so much that it may cause future harm or phobias was

unethical.  Even more unethical is that the testing was repeated. As a mother, I found this unethical and unhealthy for the infant's mental well-being. I didn't see any ethical issues in Ivan Pavlov's experiment because the dogs weren't being harmed. Them.  On the other hand, Little Alberts's experience was used to cause a sense of fear or phobia, showing some unethical concerns.

Question #20

Edward C. Tolman's main contribution was latent and cognition learning. Unlike Skinner and Watson, Tolman believed that organisms could learn and understand even if they did not receive enforcement. Tolman proved his theory by placing hungry rats in a maze without a reward for finding their way through it. As the unreinforced rats went through the maze many times, they created a cognitive map—a mental picture of the maze in their minds. After many times Tolman put food at the end of the maze. When the rats discover the food, they find their way through the maze much quicker and as quickly as the comparison group that had food the whole time in the maze. This was known as latent learning. This was one of his most significant contributions to the field of learning. Latent learning is learning that occurs but is not evident in behavior until there is a reason to display it.

Video: Pavlov's Discovery of Classical Conditioning

In Pavlov's discovery, dog food is a (US) unconditioned stimulus. The dog salivating is the unconditioned response. (UR) Next, in Pavlov's study, he pairs a bell, a neutral stimulus, a bunch of times with the (US) dog food, and the dog would salivate (UR). After putting them together many times, an association begins with stimulus #1, the dog food, and stimulus #2, the bell,

which has become the (CS) conditioned stimulus. Now the dog salivates to the bell as much as to the food the condition response. (CR)

An example of classical conditioning at this time of year is my mom baking her Irish Soda bread. The aroma of the bread throughout the house is associated with and brings me back to times when I was growing up (US), making me feel melancholy (UR). On the other hand, I always feel at home when smelling that scent from the bread (CS) again while visiting her (CR).

Video: Thorndike's Puzzle Box

Thorndike believed animals learned new skills by trial and error.

Thorndike suggested that the Law of Effect was the way humans learned. In this way, the behavioral responses that were followed up with good results would likely establish patterns and occur again. Thorndike believed that the responses that produce a pleasing effect in a particular situation are more likely to happen again, and responses with an uncomfortable impact on the person become less likely to occur again.